

THOMAS, ALEXANDER & FORRESTER LLP

Emily Alexander, Esq.

14 27th Avenue

Venice, California 90291

Telephone: (310) 961-2536

Facsimile: (310) 526-6852

Email: emilyalexander@tafattorneys.com

*Counsel for FutureSelect Prime Advisor II, LLC,
Merriwell Fund, L.P., Telesis II, LLC, RCW Group, Inc.,
Ronald Ward and Dianne Ward*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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|--------------------------------|---|
| SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION |) |
| CORPORATION |) |
| Plaintiff, |) |
| v. |) |
|) Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (BRL) |) |
| BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT |) |
| SECURITIES LLC, |) |
|) Defendant. |) |
| |) |

**OBJECTION TO TRUSTEE'S DETERMINATION OF CLAIM NOS.
015114-015130 OF FUTURESELECT PRIME ADVISOR II, LLC, MERRIWELL
FUND, L.P., TELESIS II, LLC, RCW GROUP, INC., RONALD WARD
AND DIANNE WARD**

FutureSelect Prime Advisor II, LLC, Merriwell Fund, L.P., Telesis II, LLC, RCW Group, Inc., Ronald Ward and Dianne Ward (collectively, "Claimants"), by their undersigned counsel, hereby submit this Objection to the Determination of their Claims and respectfully represent as follows:

BACKGROUND

1. The claims at issue in this Objection are: Claim Nos. 015114, 015115, 015116, 015117, 015118, 015119, 015120, 015121, 015122, 015123, 015124, 015125, 015126, 015127, 015128, 015129, and 015130 (collectively, the “Claims”). By agreement with counsel for the Trustee, Claimants’ time to object to the Claims was extended to February 8, 2010.

2. In December 2008, Claimants were invested in certain so-called “feeder funds” of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC (“BLMIS”), specifically, Tremont Rye Select Broad Market Fund, L.P., Tremont Rye Select Broad Market Prime Fund, L.P., Tremont Rye Select Broad Market XL Fund, L.P., and Greenwich Sentry Fund L.P., and the MAXAM Absolute Return Fund (collectively, the “Feeder Funds”). Substantially all the assets of the Feeder Funds were invested in BLMIS, and the investment strategy of the Feeder Funds were determined and implemented by BLMIS.

3. On December 11, 2008, the above-captioned liquidation proceeding was commenced against BLMIS pursuant to the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 (“SIPA”), 15 U.S.C. §78aaa *et seq.*

4. On December 15, 2008, jurisdiction of this matter was transferred to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, and Irving Picard (“Trustee”) was designated as the Trustee in charge of the liquidation of the BLMIS assets and the processing of claims against BLMIS.

5. On December 23, 2008, this Court issued an Order (“December 2008 Order”) directing the Trustee to distribute notice and claim forms to all BLMIS

customers. The Order provided filing deadlines for such claimants and directed that the Trustee “shall notify such claimant by mail of his determination that the claim is disallowed, in whole or in part, and the reason therefore...”

6. Pursuant to the Order, Claimants timely filed claims with the Trustee, in and those claims were designated as Claim Nos. 015114-015130. By “Notice of Trustee’s Determination of Claim,” dated December 8, 2009, (“Notice of Determination” or “Notice”), attached hereto as Exhibit A, the Trustee denied Claimants’ claims. Specifically, in each Notice of Determination, the Trustee states:

Based on a review of available books and records of BLMIS by the Trustee’s staff, you did not have an account with BLMIS. Because you did not have an account, you are not a customer of BLMIS and SIPA as that term is defined at 15 U.S.C. § 78III(2). Accordingly, your Claim for securities and/or a credit balance is **DENIED**.

See Exhibit A at 1.

GROUND FOR OBJECTION

7. The Trustee’s Notice of Determination fails to provide a sufficient reason for denying Claimants’ claims, as required by this Court’s December 2008 Order. As noted above, the Trustee’s Notice simply states that based on a review of BLMIS’ “available books and records,” Claimants do not have an account with BLMIS and are therefore not a “customer” of BLMIS as defined by SIPA. This abrupt conclusion does not satisfy this Court’s directive in the December 2008 Order that the Trustee notify a claimant of his “determination that the claim is disallowed, in whole or in part, and the reason therefore.”

8. The Trustee's apparent conclusion that Claimants cannot be "customers" under SIPA because they entrusted their funds with BLMIS through a feeder fund is incorrect. The plain language of SIPA and the Congressional intent underlying it make clear that indirect investors like Claimants are within the definition of "customers" under SIPA.

9. Contrary to the Trustee's interpretation, there is nothing in SIPA's definition of "customer" that excludes an investor such as Claimants. SIPA's definition of "customer" is broad, including "any person...who has a claim on account of securities received, acquired or held by the debtor," and "includes any person who has a claim against the debtor arising out of sales or conversions of such securities." 15 U.S.C. § 78l¹l(2).

10. At the time of its insolvency, BLMIS had "received, acquired [and] held" Claimants' funds. Claimants knowingly entrusted their funds in BLMIS through the Feeder Funds, and thus they fall squarely within the definition of "customer" under 15 U.S.C. § 78l¹l(2). *See In re Brentwood Sec. Inc.*, 925 F.2d 325, 326-27 (9th Cir. 1991) (an investor is a "customer" under SIPA when he has "entrusted cash or securities to a broker-dealer who becomes insolvent"); *see, also, S.E.C. v. Ambassador Church Fin/Dev. Group, Inc.*, 679 F.2d 608, 613-14 (6th Cir. 1982) (entrustment of funds is "key factor" in determining who is a "customer" under SIPA).

11. There is no substantive difference between investors such as Claimants and an investor who invested funds directly in BLMIS, and nothing in SIPA's statutory language makes such a distinction. Had Congress intended SIPA to cover only those

who invested directly in the SIPA debtor, and exclude investors who knowingly entrusted their funds with the debtor through an intermediary, surely it would have so stated. Although Congress did enumerate two specific categories of persons who did not qualify as “customers” under SIPA, *see 15 U.S.C. § 78l(l)(2)(A)-(B)*, it did not include indirect investors in either category.

12. In fact, the Congressional intent underlying SIPA indicates that indirect investors such as Claimants should be treated as “customers” under 15 U.S.C. 15 U.S.C. § 78l(l)(2). Congress enacted SIPA in order to protect public investors from losses arising from insolvent brokers and dealers. *See In re Primeline Securities Corp.*, 295 F.3d 1100, 1105 -1106 (10th Cir. 2002). Courts have held that SIPA should be construed in a manner that affects its remedial purpose. *See, e.g., In re First State Securities Corp.*, 34 B.R. 492, 496 (Bkrtcy. S.D. Fla. 1983).

13. Claimants understand that other claimants have also had their claims denied by the Trustee on the grounds that they were not “customers” of BLMIS as required by SIPA. To the extent they are relevant, Claimants hereby adopt and incorporate these similarly situated claimants’ grounds for objection.

14. Claimants do not waive any additional grounds on which they might object, and expressly reserve the right to object to the Trustee’s Notice of Determination on additional grounds in the future.

15. Claimants additionally file this objection for the purpose of preserving any rights that may be recognized by this Court for persons who made indirect investments in BLMIS through feeder funds.

16. Claimants respectfully request that any hearing relating to this Opposition be scheduled at the same time as the hearings for objections by other similarly situated claimants.

DATED: February 7, 2010
Los Angeles, California

THOMAS, ALEXANDER &
FORRESTER LLP

Emily Alexander /RLS
Emily Alexander
14 27th Avenue
Venice, California 90291
Telephone: (310) 961-2536
Facsimile: (310) 526-6852
Email: emilyalexander@tafattorneys.com

*Counsel for FuturePrime Select Advisor II
LLC, Merriwell Fund L.P., Telesis II, LLC,
RCW Group, Inc., Ronald Ward and
Dianne Ward*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Emily Alexander, hereby certify that on the 7th day of February, 2010, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled OBJECTION TO TRUSTEE'S DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS NOS. 015114-015130 OF FUTURESELECT PRIME ADVISOR II, LLC, MERRIWELL FUND, L.P., TELESIS II, LLC, RCW GROUP, INC., RONALD WARD AND DIANNE WARD, via overnight courier, on Irving H. Picard, c/o Baker & Hostetler, LLP, 45 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York, 10011.

DATED: February 7, 2010
Los Angeles, California

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FORRESTER LLP


Emily Alexander / PES
Emily Alexander
14 27th Avenue
Venice, California 90291
Telephone: (310) 961-2536
Facsimile: (310) 526-6852
Email: emilyalexander@tafattorneys.com

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